Amendments to the Claims

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-9: (canceled)

10. (previously presented) The bracket assembly of Claim 21, wherein the biasing element is an elastic element.

11. (previously presented) The bracket assembly of Claim 21, wherein the biasing element is a spring.

12. (currently amended) An equipment shelf mounting bracket assembly for use ~~in combination~~ with an equipment rack of a type that includes opposing pairs of vertical front and rear rails, the rails having a plurality of through-apertures arranged in groups of three for positioning the shelf at a selected height within the rack, the mounting bracket assembly comprising:

a track assembly, including a pair of elongated, U-shaped, inner and outer tracks, the inner track nesting within the outer track for relative longitudinal telescopic sliding movement therein, the outer track having a stud extending from an exterior surface of the outer track opposite the inner track;

means for clamping the inner track to the outer track at a selected length of the track assembly and thereby preventing relative longitudinal movement between the two tracks;

a first right-angle flange disposed at each of a respective one of a rear end of the inner track and a front end of the outer track;

a pair of elongated, axially symmetrical alignment pins mounted on each of the first flanges, each pin having a center and being arranged in inward-facing opposition to a corresponding pin on the opposite first flange, and with the centers of the pins in respective ones

of the pairs being spaced at a distance that is equal to the distance between respective centers of a first and a third one of the rail apertures in a selected group of three thereof; and

a latching assembly, including (a) a carrier having a longitudinal slot through which the stud extends and slidably captivated on the outer track by the stud for relative longitudinal sliding movement ~~thereon~~ on the outer track, and having a second right angle flange at a front end thereof[[,]]; and (b) biasing means for urging the second flange of the carrier toward the first flange at the front end of the outer track so as to secure the rail between the second flange of the carrier and the first flange at the front end of the outer track, with each of the pins being adapted to be disposed in a corresponding one of the rail apertures.

Claims 13-14: (canceled)

15. (currently amended) The mounting bracket assembly of claim [[14]] 12, further comprising [[a]] another second right angle flange at an end of the carrier opposite to the [[first]] front end thereof, and wherein the ~~resilient urging~~ biasing means comprises at least one spring having a first end connected to the second flange of the carrier and a second end connected to ~~one of the upstanding studs of the outer track~~ the stud.

16. (previously presented) The mounting bracket assembly of claim 15, further comprising:

a cam plate slidably captivated on the carrier for relative longitudinal sliding movement thereon; and

an elongated latching spring captivated between the cam plate and the carrier for longitudinal sliding movement therebetween, the latching spring having a locking tab that is engagable with at least one locking notch in the outer track to prevent longitudinal movement of the carrier thereon.

17. (previously presented) The mounting bracket assembly of claim 16, wherein the cam plate includes a camming surface arranged thereon such that rearward displacement of the cam plate causes the camming surface to engage the locking tab of the locking spring and disengage it

from the at least one locking notch, thereby enabling the carrier to move longitudinally on the outer track.

18. (previously presented) The mounting bracket assembly of claim 16, further comprising a spring having a first end attached to the carrier and a second end attached to the cam plate and arranged to return the cam plate to a first position relative to the carrier when the cam plate is displaced from said first position.

19. (previously presented) The mounting bracket assembly of claim 16, wherein each of the carrier and the cam plate has a right-angle push tab disposed at a respective front end thereof.

20. (previously presented) The mounting bracket assembly of claim 12, wherein the means for clamping comprise a finger screw extending through a longitudinal slot in the inner track and threaded into a nut plate disposed on the outer track.

21. (currently amended) A bracket assembly for removable attachment to a rail having an aperture, a front surface, and a back surface, the bracket assembly comprising:

a bracket having a longitudinal track assembly having a first right angle flange at a first end thereof;

a rail engagement element on the first flange, configured and located so as to enter the aperture in the rail when the first flange is disposed adjacent the front surface of the rail;

a carrier having a longitudinal slot and a second right angle flange at a first end thereof, the carrier being slidably mounted on the longitudinal track assembly by means of a stud extending from the track assembly into the slot for relative longitudinal sliding movement thereon between a first position in which the second flange is proximate the first end of the longitudinal track and a second position in which the second flange is displaced away from the first end of the longitudinal track assembly; and

a biasing element coupling the carrier to the longitudinal track assembly so as to bias the second flange toward the first position so as to secure the rail between the first and second flanges, with the rail engagement element ~~entered~~ being configured for entry into the aperture.

22. (previously presented) The bracket assembly of claim 21, wherein the rail engagement element is an alignment pin.

23. (previously presented) The bracket assembly of claim 22, wherein the alignment pin comprises a first cylindrical portion having a first diameter and a second cylindrical portion concentric with the first cylindrical portion and having a second diameter greater than the first diameter.

24. (canceled)

25. (currently amended) The bracket assembly of claim 21, further comprising:

a cam plate slidably captivated on the carrier for relative longitudinal sliding movement thereon; and

an elongated latching spring captivated between the cam plate and the carrier for longitudinal sliding movement therebetween, the latching spring having a locking tab that is engagable with a locking notch in the longitudinal track assembly.

26. (previously presented) The bracket assembly of claim 25, wherein the cam plate includes a camming surface arranged thereon such that rearward displacement of the cam plate causes the camming surface to engage the locking tab of the locking spring and disengage it from the locking notch.

27. (previously presented) The bracket assembly of claim 25, further comprising a spring having a first end attached to the carrier and a second end attached to the cam plate and arranged to return the cam plate to a first position relative to the carrier when the cam plate is displaced from said first position.

28. (previously presented) The bracket assembly of claim 25, wherein each of the carrier and the cam plate has a right-angle push tab disposed at a respective front end thereof.